

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one (1) sheet of corrected formal drawings that complies with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

In FIG.2, the reference numerals have been re-assigned to use the same reference numerals of FIG. 1 for the same elements in FIG. 2.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1 and 3-5 are now present in the application. The specification, drawings, and claim 1 have been amended. Claims 3-5 have been added. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 3 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant greatly appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 2, which is discussed hereinbelow.

Drawings Objections

The drawings have been objected to as failing to clearly illustrate the claimed invention. Applicant has submitted one (1) sheet of corrected formal drawings to address the Examiner's objection. In particular, the reference numerals in FIG. 2 have been re-assigned so that the same elements in FIGs. 1 and 2 use the same reference numerals. In view of the amendments to the drawings and the corresponding specification, it is respectfully submitted that

the drawings now clearly illustrate the claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's drawings objection are respectfully requested.

Specification

The specification has been amended to conform with the changes made in the drawings. A Substitute Specification is attached hereto. This statement is included in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.125 to indicate that it is the undersigned's belief that no new matter has been included in the Substitute Specification and Abstract.

A comparison version of the specification is provided. This comparison document indicates all additions and deletions to the originally filed specification. Applicant respectfully submits that the Substitute Specification includes the same changes as are indicated in the comparison document which compares the originally filed specification to the amended specification or Substitute Specification.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flynn, U.S. Patent No. 3,202,963. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As mentioned, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 2, which was indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 is in

condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Additional claims 3-5 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Independent claim 3 and its dependent claims 4 and 5 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits that the limitations of claims 3-5 are not disclosed nor suggested by the reference relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 3-5 are in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 3-5 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

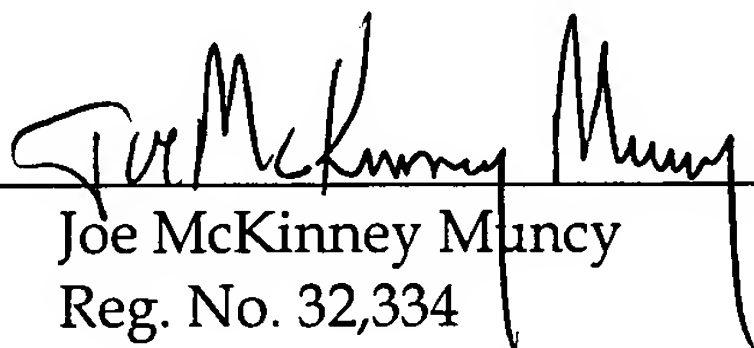
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy
Reg. No. 32,334

KM/GH/mmi
4459-0146P

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000